

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 300

Encouraging the peace process in Sri Lanka.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2002

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Encouraging the peace process in Sri Lanka.

Whereas the United States has enjoyed a long and cordial
friendship with Sri Lanka;

Whereas the people of Sri Lanka have long valued political
pluralism, religious freedom, democracy, and a respect
for human rights;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation
Tigers of Tamil Eelam have waged a protracted and cost-
ly war for the past 19 years;

Whereas an estimated 65,000 people have died in Sri Lanka
as a result of these hostilities;

Whereas the war has created an estimated 1,000,000 dis-
placed persons over the course of the conflict;

Whereas 19 years of war have crippled the economy of the north and east of Sri Lanka and resulted in low growth rates and economic instability in the south of Sri Lanka;

Whereas the economic impact of the conflict is felt most severely by the poor in both the north and the south of Sri Lanka;

Whereas efforts to solve the conflict through military means have failed and neither side appears able to impose its will on the other by force of arms;

Whereas the Government of Norway has offered and been accepted by the parties of the conflict to play the role of international facilitator;

Whereas an agreement on a cease-fire between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was signed by both parties and went into effect February 23, 2002; and

Whereas both the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have agreed to meet for peace talks in Thailand: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) notes with great satisfaction the warm and
3 friendly relations that have existed between the people of the United States and Sri Lanka;

4 (2) recognizes that the costly military stalemate
5 that has existed between the Government of Sri
6 Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
7 can only be resolved at the negotiating table;
8

1 (3) believes that a political solution, including
2 appropriate constitutional structures and adequate
3 protection of minority rights and cessation of vio-
4 lence, is the path to a comprehensive and lasting
5 peace in Sri Lanka;

6 (4) calls on all parties to negotiate in good faith
7 with a view to finding a just and lasting political set-
8 tlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict while respect-
9 ing the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;

10 (5) denounces all political violence and acts of
11 terrorism in Sri Lanka, and calls upon those who
12 espouse or use such methods to reject these methods
13 and to embrace dialogue, democratic norms, and the
14 peaceful resolution of disputes;

15 (6) applauds the important role played by Nor-
16 way in facilitating the peace process between the
17 Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers
18 of Tamil Eelam;

19 (7) applauds the cooperation of the Government
20 of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil
21 Eelam in lifting the cumbersome travel restrictions
22 that for the last 19 years have hampered the move-
23 ment of goods, services, and people in the war-af-
24 fected areas;

1 (8) applauds the agreement of the Government
2 of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil
3 Eelam in implementing the Sri Lanka Monitoring
4 Mission;

5 (9) calls on all parties to recognize that adher-
6 ence to internationally recognized human rights fa-
7 cilitates the building of trust necessary for an equi-
8 table, sustainable peace;

9 (10) further encourages both parties to develop
10 a comprehensive and effective process for human
11 rights monitoring;

12 (11) states its willingness in principle to see the
13 United States lend its good offices to play a con-
14 structive role in supporting the peace process, if so
15 desired by all parties to the conflict;

16 (12) calls on members of the international com-
17 munity to use their good offices to support the peace
18 process and, as appropriate, lend assistance to the
19 reconstruction of war-damaged areas of Sri Lanka
20 and to reconciliation among all parties to the con-
21 flict; and

22 (13) calls on members of the international com-
23 munity to ensure that any assistance to Sri Lanka
24 will be framed in the context of supporting the ongo-

- 1 ing peace process and will avoid exacerbating exist-
- 2 ing ethnic tensions.

